

Seat belts & child safety seats help prevent injury by:

1

Preventing ejection.

2

Shifting crash forces to the strongest parts of the body's structure.

3

Spreading forces over a wide area of the body.

4

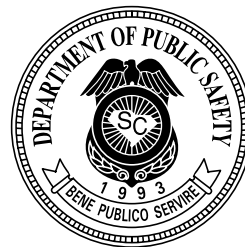
Allowing the body to slow down gradually.

5

Protecting the head and spinal cord.

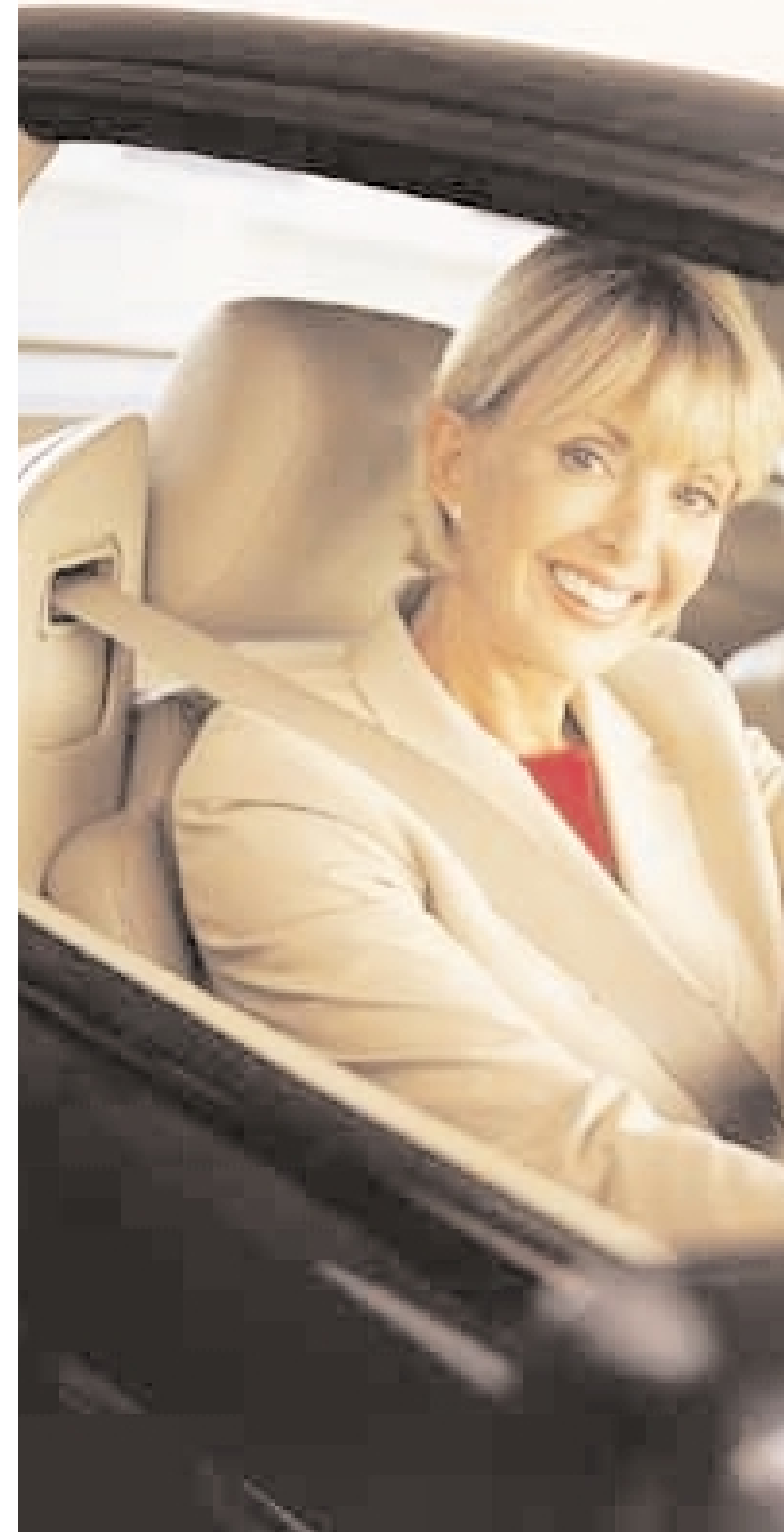
Remember these tips to stay safe.

- Always buckle up, even if your car has air bags and even if it's a short trip.
- Insist that anyone riding in your car buckle up and make wearing seat belts a family policy.
- Wear your seat belt correctly.
- Never hold a child in your arms in a moving car.
- Always place small children in an approved child safety seat even if the child resists.
- Look for the FMVSS-213 label when you purchase a child safety seat.
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions for child safety seat use.



For more information or comments about Buckle Up South Carolina, please contact the Office of Highway Safety at 1-877-349-7187 or visit the BUSC website at www.buckleupsc.com.

It's the law and it's enforced



DID YOU KNOW?

Every hour, someone in America dies simply because they didn't buckle up. In fact, the fatality rate for people not wearing safety belts in crashes is 1 in 40, while the fatality rate for those who buckle up is



1 in 732. What's more surprising is that South Carolina could save 80 lives and prevent 1,200 injuries every year if we could increase safety belt usage by a mere 10 percent.

THE CAMPAIGN

The South Carolina Department of Public Safety has launched Buckle Up South Carolina in an effort to save lives and reduce traffic-related deaths and injuries on our roadways. Through this initiative, state, county and municipal law enforcement agencies conduct strict enforcement of the state's occupant protection laws, with special emphasis on enforcement zones. These enforcement zones are determined by analyzing crash statistics and determining the locations of fatalities and serious injuries from traffic crashes.

SC SAFETY BELT LAW

Our safety belt law requires that the driver and every occupant, with exceptions, of a motor vehicle being operated on the public streets and highways of this state must wear a fastened safety belt. The driver is charged with the responsibility of requiring every occupant 17 years of age or younger to wear a safety belt or be secured in a child restraint system as required by law. However, a driver is not responsible for an occupant 17 years of age or younger who has a driver's license, special restricted license or beginner's permit and who is not wearing a safety belt.



The State's safety belt law is secondary for persons 18 and older. This means that a law enforcement officer may not stop a vehicle for a violation of the safety belt law in the absence of another traffic violation. However, the law becomes primary for persons 17 and younger. An officer may stop a vehicle and issue a citation when he observes an occupant 17 or younger who is not wearing a safety belt or secured in a child safety seat. Violators are subject to a fine of not more than \$25 and no person may be fined more than \$50 for any one incident of one or more violations.

SC CHILD PASSENGER RESTRAINT LAW

- Children from birth to one year old and who weigh less than 20 pounds, must be secured in a rear-facing child safety seat.

- Children 1-5 years old weighing 20 to 40 pounds must be restrained in a forward-facing child seat.
- Children who are 1-5 years old and weigh 40 to 80 pounds require a belt-positioning booster seat.
- Children under the age of six are not required to be in booster seats if they weigh more than 80 pounds or if they can sit with their backs against the car seat and bend their legs over the seat edge without slouching.
- Children under six are also not allowed to sit in the front passenger seat. However, this restriction does not apply if the vehicle has no rear passenger seats or if all other rear passenger seats are occupied by children less than six years old.
- Violators can receive a minimum fine of \$25 for each child passenger safety seat offense.